

GENERAL BUTLER'S DEPARTMENT.
BOLD RAID TOWARD RICHMOND.
ATTEMPT TO RELIEVE OUR PRISONERS.
THE PROJECT BETRAYED

CONSEQUENTLY UNSUCCESSFUL.
Our Troops Within Ten Miles
of the Rebel Capital.

THEY RETURN WITHOUT LOSS.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.
WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

From your correspondent with Gen. Butler's command we have just received the following highly important dispatch, dated

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Feb. 8, 1864.

The expedition having returned, we are permitted to state the following facts: On Saturday morning Gen. Butler's forces, under command of Brig. Gen. Wistar, moved from Yorktown by the way of New Kent Court House. The cavalry arrived at 12 o'clock yesterday morning at Bottom's Bridge, across the Chickahominy, ten miles from Richmond, for the purpose of making a raid into Richmond, and endeavoring by a surprise to liberate our prisoners there.

The cavalry reached the bridge at the time appointed, marching in 165 hours, 42 miles. A force of infantry followed in their rear, for the purpose of supporting them. It was expected to surprise the enemy at Bottom's Bridge, who had had, for some time only a small picket there. The surprise failed because, as the Richmond Examiner of today says, "a Yankee deserter gave information in Richmond of the intended movement." The enemy had felled a large amount of timber so as to block up and obstruct the roads and make it impossible for our cavalry to pass. After remaining at the bridge from 2 o'clock until 12, Gen. Wistar joined them with his infantry, and the whole object of the surprise having been defeated, Gen. Wistar returned to Williamsburg. On his march back to New Kent Court House, his rear was attacked by the enemy, but they were repulsed without loss to us. A march by our infantry, three regiments of whom were colored, of more than 80 miles, was made in 56 hours. The cavalry marched over 100 miles in 50 hours. This shows that it is possible to make a campaign in Virginia in winter.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The Richmond papers of Monday have the following: "JACINTON, Feb. 8.—Richmond is threatened by the enemy. Our pickets were driven in on Saturday night at Bottom's Bridge, 12 miles from Richmond. The enemy crossed the York River Railroad near Despatch Station. A large force massed at Barklem's Landing moved forward to Tallville yesterday afternoon and was then advancing. Their force consisted of three brigades of infantry, four regiments of cavalry and 12 pieces of artillery. The enemy's demonstration yesterday was probably intended as a reconnaissance preliminary to an important collision today. Certainly the enemy has come in numbers which preclude the idea of a mere raid."

From North Carolina—Everything Goes on Well.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

The following has been received from your correspondent at Fortress Monroe:

FORTRESS MONROE, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

The dispatch last is just in from Newbern.

Gen. Palmer reports everything is going on well in this district. The losses by us in the way of public property are too trifling to mention. We could not desire a more favorable result. The losses in killed, wounded, and missing are but few.

Virginia Troops Besieging Newbern—Incidents of the Siege—Deserters—A Good Shot—Disappearance of the Rebels—The Black Brigade—Rebel Desperation—Rebel Citizens in Newbern—Chilman Wounded.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

NEWBERN, Feb. 8, 1864.

Three Rebels of the 21st North Carolina came in this morning and gave themselves up as prisoners of war. They state that they hid down to sleep in the woods in front, and that their regiment moved without awakening them, and supposing that our pickets were out beyond them, they concluded to come in. They express themselves as being glad to get out of the hands of the rebels, and desire to take the oath. They state they are from Lee's army in Virginia, two divisions having come to this place two weeks ago.

Yesterday I wrote you last section of artillery and the companies of infantry were at Bush Grove. A expedition was fitted out to go after them last night, but these prisoners report their capture without firing a gun. Being cut off and hemmed in, our other corps remained.

I think, as we—This morning I learn that the enemy is breaking in at the black house on the south side of the river above Fort Gibson. Vigorous means are being adopted to defend the left and with my glass I have seen the rebels in the black house. The woods have been cut away and the rebels are in the open. They have had no success since yesterday morning. If relief is not sent at once, they must come out and give themselves up. They are entirely surrounded, and yet, strange to say, they have not yet been discovered. The rebels report large trains of wagons, and the woods seem full of men.

The weather is warm and pleasant, so the troops will not suffer at all. All the able-bodied negroes have been freed, and some of the colored pickets are being armed. The most vigorous means of defense are being adopted. The rebels are in good cheer, and all goes well. The whole and booming of the shells is becoming common once again, and these stirring scenes remind us of old days.

The attempt to capture this town in March last was prevented by the failure of an important part of the preliminary plan—the capture of Fort Anderson, a small work, at that time containing 20 men. Eighteen pieces of artillery shelled the place five hours, and the rebels sought to gain to obtain this position, from which the town could be shelled. So in the case of the present siege, an important item, and perhaps the key to the plan, failed. About 150 men, in 100 yards from the shore, captured the picket line. The pickets, composed of the party that captured the picket line, were taken to the shore where they were held. It seems that the party was composed of marines and gunboat men.

The engineers went to the engine-room the forenoon to fire up for strange to say there was no steam up, some to pay out the cable and the gunners to the guns. When the gunboats, and Capt. Landers of Fort Stephenson began to throw shells into the rebels' lines, and the rebels sought to gain to obtain this position, from which the town could be shelled. So in the case of the present siege, an important item, and perhaps the key to the plan, failed. About 150 men, in 100 yards from the shore, captured the picket line. The pickets, composed of the party that captured the picket line, were taken to the shore where they were held. It seems that the party was composed of marines and gunboat men.

The night passed mostly in quiet. A few shots are reported as fired by the enemy, but no harm is done. Before sunrise, the gunboats continued shelling the rebels along the river, to prevent the planting of batteries. All are exceedingly hopeful. The weather is pleasant, and the night was a little frosty. For two weeks the weather has been much like May at the North. Today is as bright and warm as May or June at the North.

Sounds of negroes continue to come in, and are armed and placed in the black brigades. These men learn fast. They are already quite expert in the manual of arms. Yesterday a little event occurred that amuses some of us. One of the white officers was drilling a company of negroes, and ordered them to charge

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beyond, and on they came at double-quick. He was either too slow for them, or stumbled, or became so fatigued, or for some other cause failed to get out of the way, or he was so much surprised by the sudden charge of the company in great spirit charged right at him as he scrambled in the sand to get out of the way. He took it all in good part, and he did not say a word. As soon as possible he jumped up, assumed command, and went on as before. The black troops are much more on an even footing with the white troops than they were some time ago.

Most are of the impression that the enemy is falling back now from our left. It is thought that he cannot get subsistence readily if he comes in to remain long on the south side of the river. Some prisoners state that the force that cut the railroad and telegraph below us was from Wilmington.

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capture the others, and so get control of the town. Had they succeeded in capturing the gunboat named Sunday night, the plan might have been carried out so far as we can now see. She was then in deeper water, and no one was on the alert. When we see the boldness of the plan and how near it came to being a success, we are quite astonished. There would be small chance of recapturing them before the investing force would have closed in, and serious might have been the consequence.

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN SOURCES.

The Siege of Charleston—A Fire at Folly Island—A Gunboat Aground—Skirmishing on the Big Black—Excitement at Mobile.

FORTRESS MONROE, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

The Richmond Examiner of to-day has been received, and contains the following:

CHARLESTON, Feb. 6.—Eighty-eight shots were fired at the city to-day. There was no firing at Sumter. The enemy has been hauling ammunition all day to the city, and the people generally are confident. There was a large fire on Folly Island to-day. It is supposed to have been caused by the burning of the Yankee hospital.

A gunboat in the Edisto River is lying high and dry. It is believed that she will be destroyed.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 7.—The enemy has ceased firing on the city, but continues working on the batteries and hauling ammunition.

MOBILE, Feb. 6.—The enemy crossed the Big Black yesterday. His force consisted of six regiments of infantry, two of cavalry, and two batteries of the Railroad bridge. They attempted to cross at Messengers but failed. The city is full of rumors, and some excitement prevails, but the people generally are confident. The enemy is 30,000 strong. Gen. Ross whipped their cavalry between the Yazoo.

Capt. Ives of the 10th Massachusetts, and Capt. Read of the 3d Ohio Volunteers, are to be ironed and sent to Salisbury, and put to hard labor, in retaliation for the similar treatment of two captains captured by Burnside, and now at Johnson's Island.

Col. Claudius Crozet, an eminent civil engineer, died at Richmond on Jan. 29. He was a native of Lyons, France.

The Sentinel of Jan. 4 states that two Union transports and a gunboat were at West Point on the 3d, and also that 3,000 Unionists are advancing up the Peninsula.

Twenty-five Rebel cavalry were captured in Gloucester County on the previous Friday.

Considerable anxiety is felt for Early's command in Western Virginia.

The Confederate States Tobacco Agent calls upon the producers to deliver their title of tobacco between June 1 and July 15.

Belle Boyd was at Atlanta a few days ago. She leaves shortly for Europe, where, The Sentinel says, she will receive great attention as one of the heroines of the war.

FROM CHATTANOOGA.

Railroad Open to Cleveland—Widespread Rebel Mutiny—Deserters Will Come in—Disastrous Fire at Chattanooga.

CINCINNATI, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

Dispatches from Chattanooga dated the 7th instant, say:

The railroad is open to Cleveland, Tennessee, and will be open to Knoxville in five days.

Reports of a wide-spread mutiny in the Rebel army are about.

Deserters from the Rebels still keep coming in.

The railroad depot at Chattanooga, containing Quartermaster's stores, was burned on Saturday. Loss, \$100,000.

Gen. Logan's expedition has returned to Huntsville without encountering the enemy.

The Rebel army is encamped around Tunnel Hill, Dalton and Rome.

One thousand and forty-eight Rebel deserters were registered at the Provost-Marshal's office during January.

One hundred and ten deserters came into our lines on the 3d instant.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 7, 1864.

Wm. Lamson of the 3d Pennsylvania Artillery, who was among the captured at Smithfield on the 1st inst., has effected his escape from Rebeldom, and arrived at Old Point this morning.

The steamer Waybourn, Capt. Brande, from New York, arrived to-day, and will sail for Newbern, N. C., this evening.

FORTRESS MONROE, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

The steamer S. R. Spaulding arrived this evening from Beaufort.

Telegraphic communication had been resumed with Newbern. The enemy had retired, and all was quiet.

From the South-West.

St. Louis, Monday, Feb. 8, 1864.

The Democrat Fort Smith special dispatch says: "The steamer Leon had arrived with commissary stores, and the Chippewa was expected to-day."

Capt. Russell, a Rebel Adjutant General, now a prisoner here, says Pemberton now commands Mobile.

The 3d Wisconsin Cavalry has rebelled and will start for home in a few days.

A squad of Texas refugees, six days from Gen. McCullough's headquarters at Bonham, arrived yesterday. They report a fearful state of affairs, and the whole country beyond the Rebel army, they say, is a battle-field, where engagements between deserters and guerrillas are frequent, in which the former are generally successful.

Refugees send numerous messages to the Union army, pleading enough armed recruits to hold the country. They only wait to see the head of a Union column to rise.

Steele's cavalry advance occupy Barton, 60 miles south of Little Rock.

The steamer J. R. Rose, with a large cargo of molasses and 127 bales of cotton for St. Louis, has arrived.

Private advices from Vicksburg to the 1st inst. represent that everything was progressing favorably with the military expedition.

There was a large number of cases of small pox in the 1st Indiana Regiment, but effective measures were being taken to prevent it from spreading to the other regiments. The weather was fine.

The steamer William Wallace, with the 21st Missouri Regiment on board, while passing Island No. 71, on the 26th ult., was fired upon by guerrillas from the